

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY China; North Korea

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1950

SUBJECT Economic - Communications, postal

HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 8 Apr 1950

WHERE
PUBLISHED Hong Kong

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE
PUBLISHED 29 Jan 1950

LANGUAGE Chinese

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Wen-hui Pao.

CHINA AND NORTH KOREA SIGN POSTAL CONVENTION

Pei-p'ing, 27 January (Hsin-hua) -- China and Korea have ratified a Postal Convention which was signed by their representatives in Pei-p'ing, 25 December 1949, and which will go into effect 1 February 1950. The Ministry of Posts and Telegraph has published the complete text of the document, which is as follows:

The Ministry of Posts and Telegraph of the People's Government of the Republic of China, hereinafter referred to as China, and the Ministry of Communications of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, hereinafter referred to as Korea, in order to open the way for the exchange of postal matter have mutually agreed to the following articles:

Article 1. The kinds and scope of postal matter for exchange are as follows:

- a. Ordinary: letters in envelopes, postal cards, newspapers, printed matter, papers in Braille, and samples.
- b. Special: registered mail and reply certificates.

Article 2. The post offices designated for exchange of mail are:

- a. China: Pei-p'ing, T'ien-ching, Shang-hai, An-tung, T'u-men, and Chi-an
- b. Korea: P'yongyang, Sinuiju, Namyang, and Manp'o

Article 3. The pairs of post offices between which exchange of mail may be effected are designated as T'u-men and Namyang, Chi-an and Manp'o, An-tung and Sinuiju. Mail carriers from each of these exchange offices shall be sent every other day, alternately, to the office of its opposite number to exchange mail. The appointed time for exchanging mail is between 0800 and 1200 daily. In case a change of time is found advisable, the affected offices shall notify each other of the intended change.

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Article 4. Each party to this agreement shall notify the other party of the postal districts and names of the principal post offices in its territory, and keep the other party informed of changes therein.

Article 5. The postal rates set by either party shall conform with the regulations of the Universal Postal Union. Each party is to retain the postal receipts which it receives; but both shall notify each other of the postal rates which each adopts and of changes in these rates. No charges shall be collected for returned or redirected mail in either of the two countries.

Article 6. With the exception of letters and postal cards, mail without postage or with insufficient postage shall not be dispatched.

Article 7. A list of its contents must accompany each mail sack. In the case of registered mail, the name of the post offices of origin and of destination and the registration number of each piece shall be entered in the list.

Article 8. At the time of exchanging mail, the sending office shall prepare for each consignment duplicate copies of a waybill which shall indicate the sending and receiving offices and the serial number of the consignment. One copy of the waybill shall be signed by the receiving clerk, stamped with the rubber date stamp of the receiving office, and returned to the sending office, while the other copy shall be retained by the receiving office.

Article 9. When exchanging mail, the condition of the mail sack and its lock or seal should be carefully examined. In cases of holes in the sacks, missing locks, or broken seals, the contents of the defective sacks should be jointly examined and checked against the list of contents by representatives of both offices, so as to place clearly responsibility for anything out of order.

Article 10. Mail exchanged between offices shall be carried in main sacks or pouches. After the sacks or pouches have been received and emptied, they shall be returned immediately without charge to the sending offices.

Article 11. All mail shall be transported by the quickest route, either by land or water. The transportation facilities of both countries shall make available the greatest possible conveniences for the transportation of mail.

Article 12. Neither party shall make against the other party any charges for the transportation by land or water of mail exchanged between them. For the time being, neither party shall transmit to the other party mail destined for places outside of the territories of the two countries party to this agreement, without the consent of the other party.

Article 13. Registered mail articles should be enclosed in special bags or pouches; if not too large, these should be placed inside the regular mail sacks.

Article 14. Separate regulations shall be adopted with reference to the amount and manner of indemnification occasioned by the loss of or damage to registered mail.

Article 15. No indemnification shall be made for the loss of or damage to registered articles in cases falling within the following categories:

a. Damage or loss caused by natural catastrophes, insurrections, or other irresistible forces.

b. Damage to or loss of contraband articles, or such as violate postal regulations.

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c. Damage or loss due to the defective, fragile, or perishable nature of the registered articles.

d. Cases in which, due to causes or conditions beyond their control, the postal agencies have lost their records, thus making it impossible to investigate the particulars involved.

Article 16. Articles which are unmailable or dutiable shall be handled in accordance with the respective laws of the two countries concerned. A list of unmailable articles shall be provided by each country and the other immediately notified.

Article 17. Each party may use its own language in official correspondence between the two parties, but insofar as possible, a translation by the sender of the message into the language of the other party is desirable.

Article 18. Matters pertaining to the exchange of mail between our two countries which are not covered by this convention, shall be handled in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Universal Postal Union Convention and its subordinate agreements, provided they do not conflict with this convention.

Article 19. Should the provisions of this convention prove to be unsuitable or lacking in any respect, the convention may be amended by mutual agreement.

Article 20. This convention shall go into effect 1 February 1950, provided each country shall have notified the other government of its ratification. It shall continue in effect for a period of 3 years from that date. At any time, at least 6 months before the expiration of the period of this convention, either party may notify the other party of its intention to terminate the convention; in that event, the convention shall be terminated on the date of expiration. If, after the lapse of 2½ years from its inception, no date has been set for the termination of this convention, then either party may at any time give the other party written notification of its intention to terminate the convention, and it shall be terminated 6 months from the date of notification.

This convention shall be prepared in duplicate in the Chinese and Korean languages, and China and Korea shall each retain one copy. The Chinese version and the Korean version shall be of equal effect. Should there be any dispute as to the meaning of any part of the convention, the matter shall be settled by mutual consultation.

At the same time that this convention shall go into effect, the Northeast Liberated Area of the Republic of China and North Korea Provisional Postal and Telegraph Convention, and the detailed regulations for its implementation, which were signed 18 December 1947 between the Bureau of Communications of the North Korea People's Committee and the Postal and Telegraph Administration of the Northeast Executive Committee of the Republic of China, shall become null and void.

This convention was executed on 25 December 1949, at Pei-p'ing, the capital of the People's Republic of China, in witness whereof the signatures of the representatives of both parties are hereunto subscribed:

Signed: Wang Tzu-kang (Ueda: 7262, 2262, 8884)
Huang Ju-tsu (14693, 2031, 8117)
Sun Ch'uan-hsien (2282, 468, 11397)
Representing the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph of the People's Republic of China

Signed: Ch'e Ping-t'ing (11740, 8185, 160)
Sung Li-hsien (2312, 8165, 11397)
Representing the Ministry of Communications of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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